

## THE SILK GOWN LEADS.

It Is the Dominating Fashion of the Season.

USEFUL AND BECOMING, TOO.

New Things in Coats and Some Extravagant Wraps of Lace.

The Special Gown of the Season Made of Taffeta Silk in the Coat and Skirt Style and Suited to All Ages—More and More Boleros—Long Coats Without Collars—Little Outing Coats Also of Bright Contrasting Colors—The Variety of Thin Gowns—White Gowns to Be Worn More Than Ever This Summer—No Limit to the Changes in Design and Trimming of the Separate Waists.

Every season there is some distinguishing feature of dress, some dominating mode which is continually employed until its endless reproduction gives it a prominence above everything else in sight. This year it is the taffeta silk coat and skirt gown, usually black, but sometimes dark blue, pale gray or beige, and so tucked and strapped all over that there is hardly a plain space to be seen.

Such a costume appeals to every woman on account of its usefulness as well as its becoming qualities and because of the fact that she will appear equally well dressed in it in the morning and the afternoon. It is a silk gown which is something between a dressy frock and a severe tailor-made cloth costume and it has an air of dignified elegance about it which makes it suitable for women of all ages, an attribute peculiarly attractive to the matron, for some mysterious reason.

Gowns especially designed for matrons are exceptional in these days when age is not determined by any such trifles as a matter of dress, and young women and dowagers have almost equal chances in the field of modes. To be placarded, so to speak, with your accumulated years by a special mode of dress is not at all flattering to feminine vanity and will never obtain favor again now that the subtle line of difference is so slightly and generously drawn. Fashion does not force a woman to look old before her time, and if she does, it is more or less her own fault. She has a boon in this taffeta gown, and is wise enough to appreciate it.

It is both youthful and suitable, a commendation which will assure the success of almost any reasonable fashion, and for morning and afternoon wear, either walking or driving, it is most useful, while for a second traveling gown in the outfit for a European trip there is nothing like it.

There are all grades and conditions in these silk gowns which are more or less dressy as the occasion demands, and some of them are made of peau de soie trimmed with bands of velvet ribbon. A fashionable model of this order shows a gathered skirt with a narrow flat front breadth. Graduated bands of



velvet begin at either side of the front, with a loop and a gold buckle, and extend all around the skirt. The skirt is in the Louis XV style with a long basque laid in groups of flat plaits over the hips and back. Little cross bands of velvet ribbon with small buckles ornament the tucks, buttons decorate the front of the coat, which is short at the waist line only, and the collar and revers are faced with lace and gold embroidery.

This is an extreme style and as yet the grand exception among all the short jackets so generally worn. But the disposition to study the old fashions is a means of giving a new text is very evident in some of the tentative models shown. As for the coat which is at present the reigning mode, the bolero has the lead, especially as a part of the spring suit.

Among the garments which are classified as strictly for outdoor wear there are the long and three-quarter length coats in addition, besides some very fancy shoulder capes. And newer than all others is a loose bolero of taffeta with flowing sleeves and a hood about draped around the shoulders. To wear over thin gowns, and made of gray taffeta, it is charming. This is one of Worth's fancies, and a model is shown in one of the illustrations finished around the edge with a narrow ruche of silk fringed on the edge. The sleeves are tucked down to the elbow, below which the fullest forms the flare.

Some of the new costumes have a loose



sacque effect, made by letting the material into a wide, flat front, which ends a little above the waist line. Other little loose jackets are cut straight and plain, either scalloped or cut in squares on the edge. This sort of

jacket usually fastens at the throat, only rounding out a little below the collar line, and being finished with a broad embroidered batiste collar. The sleeves end a little below



the elbow, with a flowing effect, and are cut in what is called a straight sleeve, which must be rather wide to preserve the proportions.

Another loose bolero has a double effect, the upper part lapping over the lower, but not covering it. The sleeves have the same finish, all the edges being slashed up in squares and stitched. White, yellow or ecru lawn or



batiste usually forms the broad collar and under sleeves, but an occasional jacket shows a collar of flowered taffeta, which is a feature in the department of longer coats as well, and forms a facing down either side of the front, inside, or an entire lining, if you like.

This short loose jacket is decidedly the latest thing in jackets and while it does not define the figure like those which are more closely fitted, it is extremely attractive on a slender woman, since it is short enough to show the belt. For summer wear with thin gowns, these coats are made of flowered taffeta with a white, gray or beige ground, and trimmed around the edge with three rows of black velvet ribbon, and it must be remembered that they can be plaited into a yoke, shirred around the shoulders to form a robe and the fullest all in one, or cut straight and plain without any yoke at all. They are out in the neck in different degrees as may be most becoming, sometimes sloping a little down the front, and nearly always being finished with a collar varying in width to suit the wearer.

One little model in flowered taffeta shows the shirred yoke, three rows of velvet ribbon on the edge, a narrow lace collar around the low-cut neck and a rosette bow of black velvet ribbon with ends at one side. The straight plain jacket is sometimes finished with a velvet edged ruffle of the silk.

The striking feature of the longer, and three-quarter length coats, is the collarless neck, which gives them something of the effect of a Japanese garment. Of course the wide shoulder collar of lace or embroidery is the finish, but this does not fill the place of the high standing collar to which we have become so accustomed. It will require some time for women to become fond of the drooping shoulder effect which these garments give, but all the same they have a certain charm which is very attractive.

Some of them have an Empire yoke, with vertical tucks below, others are almost straight loose sacques trimmed liberally with stitched bands, and one dressy model shown in the illustration is striped up and down with cream lace insertion, the silk being cut out underneath. Another fancy



in this style of coat is closely tucked up and down all around, and the Empire yoke is formed with bands of black velvet ribbon seen on in a trellis design, fastening on the bust with a bow and long ends. The low turn-down collar and revers are the finish.

The lace coats are the most elaborate wraps in sight, either in black over white, all black, or ecru lace over a color. One novel shape in ecru over a soft dull rose-colored silk fits the figure in Empire style, falling a little below the waist at the back, and with long tab ends in front. It is apparently made of a series of lace flounces and chiffon ruffles with ends are the finish in front. All-over lace in a heavier quality forms other lace coats with a full of plaited chiffon for a finish.

Extravagance beyond description is displayed in the long coats, some of which are called "dust cloaks." They are variously made of taffeta, pongee and a silky mohair, which is very light in weight. The same broad drooping shoulder effect which is seen in the shorter ones, characterizes these garments, and they are similarly treated with tucks and stitchings. The one shown in the illustration is of beige-colored pongee made in wide ribbed bands over tucked silk, the same color filling in the spaces.

To return to the hexameter subject of boleros once more, there is a very short jaunty

little affair made of tucked black taffeta, worn with the thinnest sleeve lawn blouses. It rounds up in the back, and points down in front to the waist line, and small as it is, you see the same quaintly shaped collar of lace or embroidered batiste. The little coat is a great feature of the outing suits this season, and we see them in bright contrasting colors which make the costume very striking. For example with a white cloth or white mohair skirt, a blue green or red cloth coat is worn. It may have revers of the white trimmed with rows of stitching or braid, but the bright color with the white skirt is wonderfully effective.

Usually there is a finish of white pearl buttons and the sleeves are flowing in shape, showing the shirt sleeves below. Fancies



which is tucked vertically above, thus forming the flounce effect below. Of course, the bands may be arranged in any form which taste can suggest, but the simpler the design the more suitable it is to the material.

Silk mail forms one of the prettiest of all the thin gowns, and it is puffed, tucked and shirred without limit. One pretty model has three six-inch ruffles around the skirt with

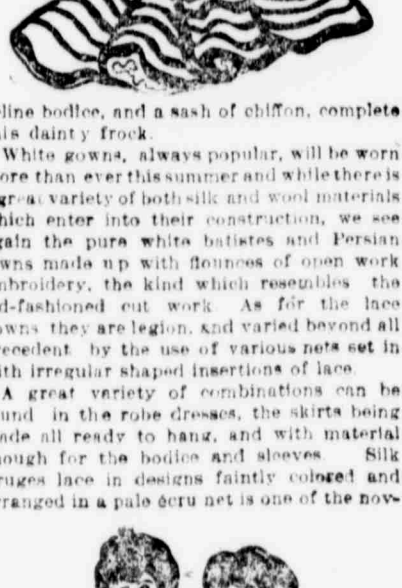


ment of the new outfit for summer, and blue, dull pink, gray, beige, and white are the fashionable colors. Embroidery tucked batiste, and heavy lace are used for trimming them, and yet there are many plain gowns with only tucks or stitched bands for decoration. The blouse waist and the bolero jacket are the two prevailing styles, the latter worn over a sheer white lawn blouse.

Among the so-called wash gowns for summer wear there is a wide field for choice this season. Since their possibilities as candidates for laundry purposes are not very carefully considered, narrow velvet and satin ribbons are very much used in trimming lawns and muscades and also black lace insertion, and no end of platings of chiffon and mousseline de soie. Some of the prettiest summer gowns are made of flowered silk mousseline trimmed with plaits of white chiffon and lace, the latter falling over the chiffon finished on the edge with a tiny ruche. A transparent neck of tucked chiffon, a bolero of lace over the mousseline bodice, and a sash of chiffon, complete this dainty frock.

White gowns, always popular, will be worn more than ever this summer and white there is a variety of both silk and wool materials which enter into their construction, we see again the pure white batistes and Persian lawns made up with flounces of open work embroidery, the kind which resembles the old-fashioned cut work. As for the lace gowns, they are legion, and varied beyond all precedent by the use of various net in with irregular shaped insertions of lace.

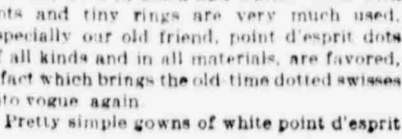
A great variety of combinations can be found in the robe dresses, the skirts being made all ready to hand, and with material enough for the bodice and sleeves. Silk Bruges lace in designs faintly colored and arranged in a pale ecru net is one of the nov-



elties, and lace expensive are the nets variously trimmed with ruffles of narrow gauze ribbon and little plaited frills of the same material.

Because lace gowns show more net than formerly, and yet there is no rule about them, for anything and everything in lace is worn, both in black and white. Nets with dots and tiny rings are very much used, especially our old friend, point d'esprit dots of all kinds and in all materials, are favored, and what brings the old time dotted swiss into vogue again.

Pretty simple gowns of white point d'esprit of tucked silk trimmed with a tulle applique design, the silk being cut out underneath, gold and ecru lace embroidery trims the tucked silk boleros, and a second blouse is tucked in diamond forms, each crossing marked by a small applique lace design.



are trimmed with stitched bands of thin, white silk, a combination which is both novel and effective. The bands may encircle at rather wide intervals below the knee, a skirt



which is tucked vertically above, thus forming the flounce effect below. Of course, the bands may be arranged in any form which taste can suggest, but the simpler the design the more suitable it is to the material.

Silk mail forms one of the prettiest of all the thin gowns, and it is puffed, tucked and shirred without limit. One pretty model has three six-inch ruffles around the skirt with



three fine tucks in each ruffle, at the head of which is another group of five tucks arranged in scallops. This is a clever piece of needle work, but it seems to be impossible these days to baffle the skill in hand work, especially as it applies to tucks.

Other swell gowns are shirred into two-



through at the top with velvet ribbon which ties just below the elbow. Very quaint and pretty are the lace fichus and berthas to wear with thin gowns as a shoulder wrap, and a befitting accompaniment to the becoming picture hats.

White petticoats of sheer fine lawn have resumed their rightful way in the world of fashion this season, and developed great possibilities in the way of decoration. Exquisite flounces of fine embroidery are edged with lace, lace insertions and motifs are inset in all sorts of designs, and lace frills fall over each other quite as generously as if the garment were to be worn on the outside. In fact, these fancy skirts are worn for nightgown with fancy sacques, colored lawn shirts are very pretty indeed to wear with wash gowns, and then there are dainty petticoats of thin wash silk trimmed prettily with lace.

Gilt crinolines very gaudy in texture make a charming frock with a few green leaves and a black velvet bow for trimming. The stylish bow of black velvet ribbon is the crowning touch on many of the light fancy strains, even though flowers are used, and nothing else sets them off so prettily. The simple hat is the one which gains distinction just at present, as millinery in general is a bewildering confusion of materials, blossoms and feathers. Plumed hats of mousseline with a straw facing and a wreath of flowers for trimming are charming.

One of the fancies of the day is fastening the belt at one side, instead of directly in front. Buckles are used in the usual way at this point or if the side is wide it may be laced up at both sides.

The white linen or plaid skirt is a necessary article in the summer wardrobe, and the pure white skirt waist is the correct thing to wear with it. It may be plain, tucked or embroidered, but it should be white and worn with a white belt and white stock. White waists are also worn with the beige colored linen skirts, and some of them have the unbordered ecru batiste collar.

A black velvet hand fastened with a loop and some old old-time daps is worn around the waist. Fanlike quilts are very modish for outing.

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Plain silk stitched on the edges forms the finish at the neck and down the front. The last two models are for linen batiste trimmed with hand embroidery.

**FRILLS OF FASHION.**

Lace motifs are here again, but their renewed popularity is something to be measured later on. They are lovely Chantilly, are made with a thumb piece and are run

hats thrust through a bow in front, giving the broad, not the high effect.

Parasols of mirror silk with inch-wide fringes around the edge are very chic with curved handles of ivory.

White silk roses with black velvet leaves make a lovely trimming on a white straw hat faced with black.

Gray suede gloves have greater favor than any other one kind, and they certainly are

as all around suitable with all gowns as any other color can be.

The linen batiste collar with lace applique is favored especially by Parisian dress designers. It is large, drooping well over the shoulder and appears on almost all the gowns.

The Vogue for large Gainsborough hats is expected on account of the recovery of the lost luster of Devonshire, but large hats very similar in shape have never really gone out of fashion.

**Death of a Woman Who Saw Three Centuries.**

From the *Conington* (Pa.) Sun.

Mrs. Rebekah Packard died at the home of her son, J. H. Packard, early Tuesday

morning, aged nearly 100 years. The funeral is being held to-day and the interment will take place at Mahanessburg.

The art of growing old gracefully is acquired by comparatively few, though it is an art in which the majority of people are anxious to excel. There is an old saw which begins something like this:

"For twenty life to be desired, Many things must be required, Income from rent and taxes clear, At least one thousand pounds a year."

But such was not the lot of Mrs. Rebekah Packard. She has never been blessed with an abundance of this world's goods, and during many years she attended to her household duties and reared eleven children. But she possessed good health, a philosophical turn of mind and faced all her trials and difficulties courageously and trod them under her feet, so to speak. She never crossed bridges till she came to them, and never worried over matters she could not help. Considering her activity, her bright mind and the preservation of all her faculties at her great age, she was without doubt the most remarkable woman in Pennsylvania. She had lived under every Administration of every President since the formation of this Government, having been born a year and a half before Washington retired from the Presidency. She was 11 years of age when Robert Fulton's steamboat made its first trip up the Hudson, and she married six months before John Andrew Jackson won his victory over the British at New Orleans. She was a middle-aged woman when she read with interest about Fremont's heroic expedition of discovery. Her wonderful strides have been made in human progress during the span of one human life.

Rebekah Rose was born at Norfolk, Conn., Oct. 13, 1797. She was the daughter of Russell Rose, who was an officer in the Continental Army and one of Washington's staff officers. Her father moved to the country and settled in what is now Sullivan township, in 1800, in Sullivan County, New York. She married John Packard in Covington on June 30, 1814, and they eleven children were born. Her husband died in 1862.

Ladies' fine dress and evening gowns, hats, shoes, jewelry, etc., at 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1050, 1100, 1150, 1200, 1250, 1300, 1350, 1400, 1450, 1500, 1550, 1600, 1650, 1700, 1750, 1800, 1850, 1900, 1950, 2000, 2050, 2100, 2150, 2200, 2250, 2300, 2350, 2400, 2450, 2500, 2550, 2600, 2650, 2700, 2750, 2800, 2850, 2900, 2950, 3000, 3050, 3100, 3150, 3200, 3250, 3300, 3350, 3400, 3450, 3500, 3550, 3600, 3650, 3700, 3750, 3800, 3850, 3900, 3950, 4000, 4050, 4100, 4150, 4200, 4250, 4300, 4350, 4400, 4450, 4500, 4550, 4600, 4650, 4700, 4750, 4800, 4850, 4900, 4950, 5000, 5050, 5100, 5150, 5200, 5250, 5300, 5350, 5400, 5450, 5500, 5550, 5600, 5650, 5700, 5750, 5800, 5850, 5900, 5950, 6000, 6050, 6100, 6150, 6200, 6250, 6300, 6350, 6400, 6450, 6500, 6550, 6600, 6650, 6700, 6750, 6800, 6850, 6900, 6950, 7000, 7050, 7100, 7150, 7200, 7250, 7300, 7350, 7400, 7450, 7500, 7550, 7600, 7650, 7700, 7750, 7800, 7850, 7900, 7950, 8000, 8050, 8100, 8150, 8200, 8250, 8300, 8350, 8400, 8450, 8500, 8550, 8600, 8650, 8700, 8750, 8800, 8850, 8900, 8950, 9000, 9050, 9100, 9150, 9200, 9250, 9300, 9350, 9400, 9450, 9500, 9550, 9600, 9650, 9700, 9750, 9800, 9850, 9900, 9950, 10000, 10050, 10100, 10150, 10200, 10250, 10300, 10350, 10400, 10450, 10500, 10550, 10600, 10650, 10700, 10750, 10800, 10850, 10900, 10950, 11000, 11050, 11100, 11150, 11200, 11250, 11300, 11350, 11400, 11450, 11500, 11550, 11600, 11650, 11700, 11750, 11800, 11850, 11900, 11950, 12000, 12050, 12100, 12150, 12200, 12250, 12300, 12350, 12400, 12450, 12500, 12550, 12600, 12650, 12700, 12750, 12800, 12850, 12900, 12950, 13000, 13050, 13100, 13150, 13200, 13250, 13300, 13350, 13400, 13450, 13500, 13550, 13600, 13650, 13700, 13750, 13800, 13850, 13900, 13950, 14000, 14050, 14100, 14150, 14200, 14250, 14300, 14350, 14400, 14450, 14500, 14550, 14600, 14650, 14700, 14750, 14800, 14850, 14900, 14950, 15000, 15050, 15100, 15150, 15200, 15250, 15300, 15350, 15400, 15450, 15500, 15550, 15600, 15650, 15700, 15750, 15800, 15850, 15900, 15950, 16000, 16050, 16100, 16150, 16200, 16250, 16300, 16350, 16400, 16450, 16500, 16550, 16600, 16650, 16700, 16750, 16800, 16850, 16900, 16950, 17000, 17050, 17100, 17150, 17200, 17250, 17300, 17350, 17400, 17450, 17500, 17550, 17600, 17650, 17700, 17750, 17800, 17850, 17900, 17950, 18000, 18050, 18100, 18150, 18200, 18250, 18300, 18350, 18400, 18450, 18500, 18550, 18600, 18650, 18700, 18750, 18800, 18850, 18900, 18950, 19000, 19050, 19100, 19150, 19200, 19250, 19300, 19350, 19400, 19450, 19500, 19550, 19600, 19650, 19700, 19750, 19800, 19850, 19900, 19950, 20000, 20050, 20100, 20150, 20200, 20250, 20300, 20350, 20400, 20450, 20500, 20550, 20600, 20650, 20700, 20750, 20800, 20850, 20900, 20950, 21000, 21050, 21100, 21150, 21200, 21250, 21300, 21350, 21400, 21450, 21500, 21550, 21600, 21650, 21700, 21750, 21800, 21850, 21900, 21950, 22000, 22050, 22100, 22150, 22200, 22250, 22300, 22350, 22400, 22450, 22500, 22550, 22600, 22650, 22700, 22750, 22800, 22850, 22900, 22950, 23000, 23050, 23100, 23150, 23200, 23250, 23300, 23350, 23400, 23450, 23500, 23550, 23600, 23650, 23700, 23750, 23800, 23850, 23900, 23950, 24000, 24050, 24100, 24150, 24200, 24250, 24300, 24350, 24400, 24450, 24500, 24550, 24600, 24650, 24700, 24750, 24800, 24850, 24900, 24950, 25000, 25050, 25100, 25150, 25200, 25250, 25300, 25350, 25400, 25450, 25500, 25550, 25600, 25650, 25700, 25750, 25800, 25850, 25900, 25950, 26000, 26050, 26100, 26150, 26200, 26250, 26300, 26350, 26400, 26450, 26500, 26550, 26600, 26650, 26700, 26750, 26800, 26850, 26900, 26950, 27000, 27050, 27100, 27150, 27200, 27250, 27300, 27350, 27400, 27450, 27500, 27550, 27600, 27650, 27700, 27750, 27800, 27850, 27900, 27950, 28000, 28050, 28100, 28150, 28200, 28250, 28300, 28350, 28400, 28450, 28500, 28550, 28600, 28650, 28700, 28750, 28800, 28850, 28900, 28950, 29000, 29050, 29100, 29150, 29200, 29250, 29300, 29350, 29400, 29450, 29500, 29550, 29600, 29650, 29700, 29750, 29800, 29850, 29900, 29950, 30000, 30050, 30100, 30150, 30200, 30250, 30300, 30350, 30400, 30450, 30500, 30550, 30600, 30650, 30700, 30750, 30800, 30850, 30900, 30950, 31000, 31050, 31100, 31150, 31200, 31250, 31300, 31350, 31400, 31450, 31500, 31550, 31600, 31650, 31700, 31750, 31800, 31850, 31900, 31950, 32000, 32050, 32100, 32150, 32200, 32250, 32300, 32350, 32400, 32450, 32500, 32550, 32600, 32650, 32700, 32750, 32800, 32850, 32900, 32950, 33000, 33050, 33100, 33150, 33200, 33250, 33300, 33350, 33400, 33450, 33500, 33550, 33600, 33650, 33700, 33750, 33800, 33850, 3